

Microsystem Sensors: Forces Pushing Technology into the Future

Microsystems technologies, including MicroElectroMechanical Systems (MEMS), photonics, and other technologies, are revolutionizing sensors, sensor systems, and sensor applications. Many of these advancements are due to the innovative application of brand new technologies for new markets, i.e., technology push, rather than the incremental improvement of existing technologies to satisfy known customer needs, i.e., application pull. Forces that have pushed microsystems technology into applications include: make things smaller; lower cost; work at the micro-scale; create arrays; and integrate. This presentation will discuss these forces, describe example microsystem sensors, and speculate on where these forces will push us in the future.